

owners nationwide—a number that has well surpassed the original group of 160 members. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the commendable service NSBA has provided to this Nation's entrepreneurs over the past 70 years.

As Chair of the Small Business Committee, I am well aware of the unique plight facing this Nation's entrepreneurs. As the oldest small business advocacy group in the United States, NSBA has a strong history of promoting small business growth and educating its members on the impact of Federal policies. The unwavering dedication that this group has shown to fostering the advancement and growth of entrepreneurs is deserving of recognition.

From carpenters to grocers and designers, NSBA represents a broad range of citizens who believe in the free enterprise system. Since joining the Small Business Committee well over a decade ago, this organization has frequently been out front, leading the charge on a number of issues that are of the utmost importance to this Nation's 26 million small businesses. Whether it was advocating for increased access to capital or the Federal marketplace—NSBA has always acted as a steadfast advocate for our entrepreneurs.

Thanks to the leadership of the NSBA—its founder, the late DeWitt M. Emery, Board Members, Executive Director, staff, and supporters—its members are given the opportunity to gather every two years during the "Small Business Congress" to learn about the latest happenings impacting their businesses and vote upon their top ten. NSBA subsequently publishes its priority issues booklet listing the results and advocating on the members' behalf. NSBA's contributions that bring to light the everyday matters that are of concern to the main drivers of this economy—small business—are truly commendable.

Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sincerest congratulations to the National Small Business Association in commemoration of its 70th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
ALESSANDRA C. BRAUN ON HER
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alessandra C. Braun of Fremont, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Alessandra's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alessandra brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Fremont, Ohio, Alessandra attained a grade point average which placed her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Alessandra has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Alessandra has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Mock Trial and Science Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Alessandra has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, she has earned varsity letters in swimming and volleyball where she served as the co-captain of the varsity team. Alessandra's dedication and service to the community and her peers have proven her ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Alessandra will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alessandra C. Braun on her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alessandra will do very well during her career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LISA PHILIPS

HON. JON C. PORTER-

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Philips, R.N., who has distinguished herself as an outstanding and devoted professional in her field as a Registered Nurse.

Lisa Philips has been a Registered Nurse for over 28 years. In 2003, Lisa joined the staff at Summerlin Hospital as a Charge Nurse where she was responsible for incoming patients' ability to see a physician in a timely manner. In 2006, Lisa was promoted to House Supervisor where her responsibilities include maintaining the patient flow of the entire hospital and ensuring that patients receive their needed care. Lisa is a committed and caring nurse who has a unique ability to communicate with physicians, patients, and their families. Lisa also personifies team values and is the embodiment of the Very Important Patient Program recently established at Summerlin Hospital. As a result of her commitment to excellence and outstanding service to her patients and colleagues, Lisa was recognized as Employee of the Year for 2006.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Lisa Philips, R.N. and her continued excellence at Summerlin Hospital. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Lisa for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2007

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day 2007, and to celebrate the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to the growth and prosperity of Northeast Ohio.

Held May 15 and May 19, Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the many contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the well-being of Northeast Ohio. I marvel at the beautiful ethnic and cultural diversity that has developed over the years, and I am grateful for the generations of immigrants who have brought to Cleveland the customs and rich heritage from every corner of Asia.

As Clevelanders forge ahead, building new institutions, relationships and bridges, it is my hope that future generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will continue their invaluable contributions to our social, economic and cultural health.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day, and honoring the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the rich cultural tapestry of Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAT AND BILL KESSLER, RECIPIENTS OF THE 2007 "CIRCLE OF CARE" AWARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pat and Bill Kessler, a couple who have worked together to improve the quality of life in their community. The Kesslers will be honored on May 31, 2007 as the recipients of the 2007 Circle of Care award from the Riverbend Head Start and Family Services in Alton, Illinois.

Bill Kessler retired last year after 33 years at St. Anthony's Heath Center in Alton, Illinois where he had served as the first lay administrator and longtime CEO of this institution founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. Pat was a registered nurse but has spent the past 35+ years that they have been in the Alton community raising their family of eight children and donating time to many organizations. They have both been willing, despite the significant demands of their work and family lives, to give back to their community and make meaningful contributions to the quality of life for those in the Alton area.

The Kesslers met while Pat was a student nurse and Bill was a college student working as an orderly in St. Louis. They were married in 1968 and spent their first years together overseas, with Bill serving in the U.S. Army after receiving his Masters Degree from St. Louis University. They came back to the St.

Louis area and settled in Alton, Illinois with a new and growing family.

Bill Kessler helped shape St. Anthony's Health Center into a facility that earned a "Top 100 Hospital" award and has branched out with a number of community outreach programs and initiatives. Bill has also found time to be involved in over 50 different professional and civic organizations through the years.

Pat Kessler, in addition to raising their eight children, with all the school and sports activities, homework, doctors visits, etc. that is required for such a large family, has also been very involved in a number of religious, educational and civic organizations.

Both Pat and Bill continue to look for ways to serve others. They have both recently completed a master's in Theological Studies Program at Quincy University and look to enhance their role within their church. Their continuing work to help others within their community is being recognized through the 2007 Circle of Care award. The Riverbend Head Start and Family Services has a mission, to "enable children and families to discover positive solutions to life's challenges." Pat and Bill Kessler are living examples of this mission and are therefore very worthy recipients of this award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Pat and Bill Kessler for their dedicated service to their community and to wish them and their family the very best in the future.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus, I rise today to honor correctional officers and employees of correctional facilities across our country.

May 6, 2007 kicked off the National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Throughout the week, correctional officers will be here in Washington to speak with their elected officials, present awards to officers whose exceptional service merits special recognition, and honor the memory of fallen comrades who had made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.

I am proud to sponsor House Resolution 264, along with my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS. H. Res. 264 is a bipartisan resolution designed to honor correctional officers and employees by acknowledging and supporting the goals and ideals of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. The resolution directly honors correctional workers at all levels, local, State and Federal, including psychologists, chaplains, teachers, and kitchen staff.

Correctional facilities are a critical component of our public safety and criminal justice systems. We rely on correctional facilities to

mend the behavior of certain members of our society. To do that, these facilities must rely on correctional officers and other personnel who are highly trained to work in a challenging and often dangerous environment. Before coming to Congress I had the honor of working alongside these men and women when I served as a probation officer and then Sheriff of Schuylkill County, which houses a Federal and state prison. The respect I gained for these public servants is indescribable and I thank them for the countless ways they benefit our communities.

Correctional officers and staff work each day to protect society from the threat of criminal activity. They risk their lives ensuring that we are safe. They maintain order in a dangerous place and ensure the basic needs of one of the most difficult groups in society are addressed. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that we get the opportunity to thank them for the good work they do and I commend my colleagues in the House or Representatives for passing House Resolution 264.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ALESSANDRA C. BRAUN ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alessandra C. Braun of Fremont, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Alessandra's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alessandra brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Fremont, Ohio, Alessandra attained a grade point average which placed her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Alessandra has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Alessandra has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Mock Trial and Science Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Alessandra has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, she has earned varsity letters in swimming and volleyball where she served as the co-captain of the varsity team. Alessandra's dedication

and service to the community and her peers have proven her ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Alessandra will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to the United States Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alessandra C. Braun on her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alessandra will do very well during her career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the Nation.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT AWARDEES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four constituents in my district who achieved the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout. As members of the Pendleton County Boy Scouts and the brotherhood, Order of the Arrow, they demonstrate the high standards of Scouting and citizenship. I would like to take a moment to highlight their individual accomplishments:

Mathew Tyler Putz of Franklin, West Virginia achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on February 19, 2006. In addition to Scouting activities; Mathew plays football and track for Pendleton County High School and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Future Farmers of America.

Jeremy Allen Hottinger was officially recognized as an Eagle Scout on August 2, 2006. He plays football for the Pendleton County Wildcats and is a member of the Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department.

Julian Achetta Siapno became an Eagle Scout on August 22, 2006. He is currently serving our country in the United States Air Force.

For their final project, Matthew, Jeremy, and Julian worked together to improve a picnic shelter at a local Navy Base in Sugar Grove. Matthew built a wooden bridge across a ravine; while Jeremy made a gravel path at both ends of the bridge. Julian painted and improved the picnic area. They are members of Scout Troop 162 in Franklin, West Virginia.

Travis Allen Day, a member of Troop 499 in Circleville, joined the prestigious league of Eagle Scouts on December 28, 2006. He cleaned and remodeled the United States Forest Service public rifle range at Brandywine, West Virginia. Travis also plays baseball for the Petersburg High School Vikings baseball team.

I would like to congratulate these four young West Virginians for their adherence to the Boy Scouts of America. I want to extend to them my most sincere gratitude for preserving and improving their communities. I look forward to the future accomplishments of these promising young citizens.